

Message

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on behalf of ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]  
**Sent:** 9/1/2017 6:01:37 PM  
**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** ECOS Meets This Week at White House, U.S. EPA, and Research Triangle; Texas Responds to Hurricane Harvey; & More

ECOS Meets This Week at White House, U.S. EPA, and Research Triangle; Texas Responds to Hurricane Harvey; & More

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## ECOSWIRE

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## **ECOS and Several Members Participate in White House Infrastructure Meeting**

ECOS and several members on August 30 attended a *White House Conversation on Infrastructure: Empowering State & Local Leaders* focused on permit streamlining, which will involve aligning the 26 federal statutes, 10 federal agencies, and 16 permits needed to accomplish many major infrastructure projects. Attendees from across the United States, including ECOS members from five states, brought forward examples of highway, runway, and other infrastructure project permitting that took between 10 and 30 years to complete.

A new Executive Order, *Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects*, sets a number of key goals including striving for “one federal decision” on projects, limiting the federal environmental impact assessment time to two years, and issuing permits within 90 days of a record of decision. The Administration’s goal is to focus on statutory, regulatory, policy, and cultural changes needed to build infrastructure expeditiously and in consideration of environmental requirements.

Conversation also focused on prioritizing for federal funding those projects that have the highest percentages of state and local dedicated funds allocated to them. Forecasts were

that more activity would occur around infrastructure after tax reform is addressed. ECOS will continue to report on developments in this arena through our Infrastructure Task Force, led by Chair Bob Martineau of Tennessee and Vice Chair Drew Bartlett of Florida. [Dunn]



*Attending the White House meeting were Bob Martin of New Jersey, Carol Comer of Missouri, Noah Valenstein of Florida, and Alexandra Dunn of ECOS (left to right). Also in attendance but not pictured were Misael Cabrera of Arizona and Chris Wells of Mississippi.*

## **States Meet with U.S. EPA to Discuss FY19 Budget Priorities**

On August 29, ECOS officers and members of the ECOS Executive Committee met by phone with U.S. EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer and other key EPA staff to provide state input as EPA develops its FY19 budget proposal. Craig Butler of Ohio, ECOS' Executive Committee Region V Representative and Water Committee Chair, attended in person. EPA is developing its FY19 budget proposal over the coming months, with a draft due to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) September 11. Traditionally OMB then works with agencies to issue the President's proposed budget in February for the forthcoming fiscal year.

Acting U.S. EPA Chief Financial Officer David Bloom noted that EPA would be developing its FY19 budget based on OMB target levels of the FY18 President's Budget request of \$5.66B. In the discussion, the ECOS leaders offered input to EPA including:

- States' eagerness to assist EPA in advancing its core themes;
- The importance of states' cooperative federalism goals and of clarifying roles and responsibilities to allocate resources accordingly;
- The need for focus on environmental outcomes over process, increased flexibility to meet environmental commitments, refinement of core functions and environmental service delivery, and alignment of EPA research with state needs.

ECOS leaders emphasized the importance of stable Categorical Grant funding, along with the ability to remain nimble to respond to natural disasters, and of funding to support business process improvement and program modernization activities. In addition, they noted that because regional Geographic Program funding has helped to protect and restore local and regional ecosystems and E-Enterprise for the Environment has helped reduce duplication of data collection; funding for these efforts should be preserved. In response to a question about leveraging resources with other federal agencies, states



noted the importance of rowing in the same direction across the federal government family. There are key opportunities to increase Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 program delegation to states, and to coordinate EPA collaboration with the Department of Energy on nuclear weapon complex site cleanup and with the Department of Agriculture on the CWA 319 nonpoint source program.

Leaders also highlighted the value of stretching federal dollars further by maximizing flexibility available in Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs) and looking at tradeoffs to improve deliverables such as through self-certification programs to increase compliance rates. They reiterated ECOS' support for categorical grant funding for the five core delegated programs including hazardous waste, point and nonpoint water pollution control, air quality management, and drinking water. Other categorical grants highlighted as of top importance are Environmental Information grants that assist states in investments in e-permitting activities and modernizing data systems and Multi-Purpose Grants. First awarded in FY16, Multi-Purpose Grants are an important source of discrete funds that allow states to address work proactively rather than waiting for problems to develop. Members also emphasized the value of funding for EPA research that responds to immediate state needs.

ECOS will submit its budget points to EPA in writing early next week. In a related matter, EPA's draft FY 2019-2023 Strategic Plan is due to OMB in September 11, and a public comment period will follow. ECOS will be engaged in that process. [Graves]

## **Region 4 States Gather in North Carolina with U.S. EPA ORD**

On August 30, representatives of four Region 4 states, along with ERIS President David Paylor of Virginia, met with U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) at the Research Triangle Park Laboratory in Raleigh, North Carolina, to discuss state science issues and learn about ORD work. States raised a variety of state-specific and national issues including per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), harmful algal blooms (HABs), inexpensive water quality monitors, coal combustion residuals, remote sensing, and citizen science.

Having heard about a wide array of state challenges, ORD representatives then shared information on work they were conducting around PFAS, HABs, emerging/unregulated

drinking water contaminants, wildfires, and air sensors. During a lab tour, attendees had the opportunity to see ORD scientists at work and hear about specific research efforts.

The meeting was part of an ongoing effort led by ERIS and ORD to connect states with EPA research and bring state needs to EPA researchers. [Hanson]



*State representatives at the Research Triangle Park lab included Kyle Maurer of South Carolina, Myra Reece of South Carolina, Elaine Boyd of Tennessee, Robin Stephens of South Carolina, Aaron Keatley of Kentucky, Fran Marshall of South*

*Carolina, Sheila Holman of North Carolina, David Paylor of Virginia, and  
Jim Glover of South Carolina (left to right).*

## **Final Agenda Issued for ECOS Fall Meeting, 46 States Set to Attend**

### ***Snow King Room Available on September 13 and 14***

ECOS this week issued the final agenda for the 2017 Fall Meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on *Bright Ideas: States Leading the Way*, for which 46 states are now registered. The September 11-12 [agenda](#) features 25 state speakers in addition to three federal speakers, five nongovernmental organization speakers, and eight industry speakers.

Keynoters are Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, former ECOS member Collin O'Mara (Delaware), now President & CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, and XPRIZE Foundation Leader of Energy & Environmental Prizes Paul M.E. Bunje. The public portion of the Fall Meeting runs September 11 and 12, with states-only sessions planned until 11:15 a.m. on September 13. These discussions will be followed by the E-Enterprise for the Environmental Leadership Council Meeting.

Due to the expiration of the ECOS room block at Snow King Resort and the rapidly filling overflow ECOS room block at Mountain Modern Motel, ECOS is keeping a waiting list to transfer Snow King Rooms. In the event of a needed Snow King cancellation, please email [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS, who will attempt to arrange a room transfer to the next person on the ECOS waiting list in order to secure a full refund of your reservation.

**Please also email Lia if you are interested in securing one Snow King room that has come open on the nights of September 13 and 14.**

See the [Fall Meeting website](#) for online registration and details about lodging, the Snow King courtesy shuttle, area attractions, security, and more. [Parisien]

## **ECOS Member Stepp Named U.S. EPA Region 7 Principal Deputy Administrator**

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced this week the appointment of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Cathy Stepp to serve as Principal Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 7. Stepp also will fill the role of Region 7 Acting Regional Administrator until a Regional Administrator is named. She plans to attend the ECOS Fall Meeting.

EPA reports that under Stepp's leadership, the DNR was the first state agency to apply Lean government efforts to its organization. With a priority to make the DNR more transparent, she guided efforts to create greater public input for internal processes. Stepp also has served as Racine County State Senator and on Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board. In addition to public service, much of her experience is in the private sector, including managing a small family-owned and operated business.

Ed Chu, who has served as Acting Regional Administrator for the past seven months, will return to his permanent senior career position as Region 7 Deputy Regional Administrator. [Parisien]

## State News You Can Use

[As Texas CEQ Responds to Unprecedented Hurricane, Member Experiences Sought](#)

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[Tennessee Attains Compliance with Federal Particle Pollution Standards](#)

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[Louisiana Collecting Air Samples with Mobile Air Monitoring Lab](#)



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Delaware Makes Strides in E-Permitting Modernization Efforts

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Pennsylvania Grant Funds Solar Power Installation

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Missouri Takes Water Quality Lessons to the Classroom

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## **Need-to-Know News in Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants**

### **ECOS Toxic Substances Reduction Workgroup Holds Monthly Call**

*Area of Focus: Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants*

ECOS' Toxic Substances Reduction Workgroup held its monthly call on August 29. U.S. EPA's Maria Doa, Director of the Chemical Control Division, briefed states on recent developments regarding GenX, a toxic chemical accidentally released into the Cape Fear River in North Carolina earlier this summer after being discharged as a byproduct for decades. EPA Headquarters is working quickly with its Region 4 colleagues and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to determine how the product was released and brainstorm possible solutions for cleaning the river.

Lynn Vendinello, Deputy Director of the EPA Chemical Control Division, and John Gilkeson

of Minnesota then provided updates to EPA's inorganic byproduct negotiated rulemaking committee, which held its second formal meeting in August.

Finally, Pam Myrick, Acting Director of EPA's Environmental Assistance Division, discussed a draft document on expected state access to confidential business information. This document, which will be expedited for North Carolina due to GenX challenges, is expected to be available for state comment this fall.

For questions or more information about the workgroup, contact [Sarah Grace Longworth](#) of ECOS. [Longworth]

## ITRC

*[Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council](#)*

### ITRC PFAS Team Gathers for Fall Meeting

The ITRC PFAS Team kicked off its Fall Meeting this week in St. Paul, Minnesota, with more than 100 attendees. Participants heard remarks from Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health, and John Linc Stine, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and President of ECOS. Both speakers touched on the need for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) research, collaboration, and partnerships.

Learn more [here](#). [Bodi]

## ECOS/ITRC Staff News

### ECOS Welcomes New Law Clerk, ITRC Announces New Intern

ECOS this week welcomed [Elena Franco](#) as its new Law Clerk. She is currently a third-year law student at American University Washington College of Law focused on

environmental law. Elena's experience as an environmental advocate ranges from environmental legal internships to grassroots organizing to lobbying local governments. In law school, she has worked as a Law Clerk with the U.S. EPA Office of General Counsel Air and Radiation Law Office in its Summer Honors Program. She also has served as a Law Clerk for Earthjustice.

Also this week, [Eli Berger](#), a junior in the University of Maryland's Civil & Environmental Engineering program, joined ITRC staff as an intern. A native of Rockville, Maryland, he is pursuing a minor in Sustainability Studies. Eli is involved in the campus chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is a campus tour guide. [Parisien/Franco/Berger]

## **Associations News**

### **ACWA Elects New Officers**

The Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) has elected new officers for 2017-18.

The new leadership lineup consists of President Jennifer Wigal of Oregon, Vice President Allison Woodall of Texas, Past President Pete LaFlamme of Vermont, and Treasurer Andrew Gavin of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

Congratulations to the new ACWA team! [Parisien]

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Webinars**

#### **ECOS and U.S. EPA on E-Enterprise Facility Project Team**

The E-Enterprise for the Environment Facility Team Co-Chairs will host an interactive webinar on the progress of the Team under Phase II and planned next steps. This webinar

is designed for state, local, and tribal organizations participating in the Facility Plenary Team, but welcomes broader E-Enterprise participation.

An overview of the E-Enterprise Facility project will be provided, along with a Phase II overview and recap of deliverables. Preliminary next steps will be identified, and feedback will be encouraged.

The webinar will be held on **September 6 at 1 p.m. Eastern**. To register, click [here](#). [Ortiz]

## **SERDP/ESTCP on R&D Needs for Management of DoD's PFAS Contaminated Sites**

SERDP and ESTCP will hold a webinar on **September 7 at noon Eastern** to highlight Department of Defense (DoD) efforts to meet research and development needs for the management of DoD sites contaminated with per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Speakers will include Maureen Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health; Dr. Andrea Leeson, Deputy Director of SERDP and ESTCP; and Professor David Sedlak of the University of California, Berkeley.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Bodi]

## **U.S. EPA on Updated EJSCREEN**

U.S. EPA has released an update to [EJSCREEN](#) that now includes the most up-to-date demographic and environmental data, as well as a revised water data layer that provides better surface water pollution prediction and new layers for schools and public housing. To support use of these updates, EPA is holding two webinars on EJSCREEN on:

- **September 7 at 1 p.m. Eastern:** [register here](#); and
- **September 14 at 4 p.m. Eastern:** [register here](#).

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice screening and mapping tool based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. [Hanson]

## ITRC on Remedy Selection for Contaminated Sediments

ITRC will hold an online training on **September 14 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern** on Remedy Selection for Contaminated Sediments. Sediments underlying many of our nation's major waterways are contaminated with toxic pollutants from past industrial activities. Cleaning up contaminated sediments is expensive and technically challenging. Sediment sites are unique and complex, and require a multidisciplinary approach and often project managers lack sediments experience. This training will help participants identify site-specific characteristics and data needed for site decision-making, evaluate potential technologies based on site information, and select the most favorable contaminant management technology for their site.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Bodi]

## NEWMOA on Materials Management in Northeast Rural Communities

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) will host two free public webinars to highlight the results and future direction of its rural communities project. In many rural areas in the Northeast, towns operate transfer stations to provide waste management and recycling services to their residents. NEWMOA partnered with waste management authorities and transfer stations in rural areas of New Hampshire and Vermont to improve worker safety and promote waste reduction.

The first webinar, on **September 19 at 1:30-3 p.m. Eastern**, is [Improving Safety at Transfer Stations In Rural Communities](#), which aims to raise awareness of common issues found at small transfer stations in rural areas to help improve safety for both transfer station workers and residents. Topics include equipment safety, weather, traffic, and hazardous (including construction and demolition materials) and universal waste. Register [here](#).

The second webinar, on **September 28 at 1:30-3 p.m. Eastern**, is [Reducing Waste Disposal at Transfer Stations in Rural Communities](#), which will offer strategies for transfer station attendants to communicate the importance of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling to residents.



Register [here](#). [Longworth]

## U.S. EPA on Water Issues

U.S. EPA has two ongoing webinar series addressing clean water and small water systems. The Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts a series on [water research](#), with the following monthly webinars scheduled:

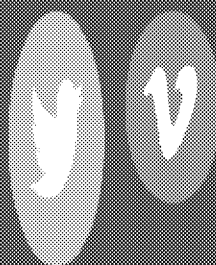
- **October 25** - Life Cycle Assessment as a Decision Support Tool

More information on the water research webinar series, including how to register, is available [here](#).

In addition, ORD and the Office of Water host a monthly [webinar series on small drinking water systems](#). Their schedule for the rest of the year is:

- **September 26** - Small Systems Research DeRISK Center
- **October 31** - State Acceptance of UV Disinfection Technologies
- **November 28** - Lead in Schools and Selecting Lead Free Fixtures
- **December 12** - Residual Chlorine and Calibration Check for Chlorine Instruments

More information on the small systems webinars, including recordings of past webinars and how to register, is available [here](#). [Hanson]



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